

Initial Proposal Beaver Lodge Timber Sale

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Lincoln Field Office is proposing a timber sale on the following state owned parcels.

Sections 4 T.14N. R.9W. Public Building Trust
Section 16 T.14N., R.9W., and Section 16 T.14N., R.10W., Common Schools Trust

The primary objective of the proposed project is to harvest lodgepole pine trees that have been, are currently, or are at risk of being attacked by the mountain pine beetle. To access the proposed harvest units approximately 1.75 miles of new road construction may be needed. Additionally road maintenance and improvement would be needed on approximately 6 miles of existing access roads. Up to two miles of existing roads, that are not needed for management purposes, could be obliterated as part of the proposed action. Noxious weed management, property line surveys, and tree planting may also occur under the proposed action.

This proposal overlaps some areas of the proposed Beaver-Liver Timber Management Project. This change in project planning is in response to the on-going mountain pine beetle epidemic. In accordance with State Statute 77-5-207, the DNRC's intent is to salvage timber before there is substantial value loss. Additionally the proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

The proposal is in the general vicinity of Beaver and Arrastra Creeks. This area is known to contain numerous wildlife species and fish bearing streams run through the project area. Protective measures to fulfill the endangered species act, and protect other environmental considerations, would be used.

The proposed sale could harvest up to 3.5 million board feet of timber. The proposed action would likely be implemented in the summer of 2009 and be completed by 2011.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted. Neighboring landowners will also be asked for their input.

The Montana D.N.R.C. invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by December 22, 2008 to:

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